

**OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL**

**JUNE 11, 2013**

**7:00 P.M.**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** MAYOR BENJAMIN R. FREDERICK

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** MAYOR BENJAMIN R. FREDERICK

**PRESENT:** Mayor Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor Pro-Tem Cindy S. Popovitch, Councilpersons Loreen F. Bailey, Thomas B. Cook, Christopher T. Eveleth, and Burton D. Fox.

**ABSENT:** Councilperson Michael J. Erfourth.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Pro-Tem Popovitch to approve the agenda with the following change:

Move citizen comments before fee schedule discussion.

Motion supported by Councilperson Fox and concurred in by unanimous vote.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

Ed Urban, 601 Glenwood Avenue, Owosso, commented that he received what he thought was a prank call regarding his grandfather being a war criminal.

Sharon Haskins, 207 South Washington Street, Owosso, inquired about getting sidewalks fixed.

Justin Horvath, president/CEO of the SEDP, wanted to let council know that Midwest Bus got a contract and will be hiring about 50 new employees. He also commented on fee schedule.

Tom Manke, 118 South Washington Street, Owosso, commented about the number of people in the county that can't afford to eat, said his readers are moving to the township and encouraged council to look at cities that work a homesteading program. He also expressed his pleasure with the Curwood festival raising money for charities and thanked council for working with the Curwood Committee.

Eddie Kappelman, 606 Glenwood Avenue, Owosso, commented that he had bought a HUD house and has plans to update it. He also commented on the fact that people run the 3-way stop on Glenwood and Monroe and thought the best solution would be speed bumps. He also questioned if you could use money from the water fund to pay for other things.

Jim Morel, 996 Marguerite Drive, Owosso, would like council take a look at the Owosso City Ordinance Chapter 8 which refers to budgeting, budgeting process, auditing and end of year reporting. He also commented on the 2012 audit report which shows the retirement fund to have been under funded for quite a few years. He is concerned with what will be shown to the State and to businesses that want to locate in the City of Owosso with regards to the overall funding.

Mayor Frederick commented on the Curwood Festival. He was pleased with all of the children that took part and felt it was a good festival. He also commended the Skerbec Carnival Crew and the Owosso Police Department did a good.

Councilman Fox also commented on the Curwood Festival. He was amazed at the amount of money that was collected for Shane Cantu Scholarship Fund and the ARC. He also commended all the Mr. Owosso Candidates and the people who gave. He also thought the Owosso Police Department did an outstanding job.

**DISCUSSION – FEE SCHEDULE**

The City manager explained that he started with the fees listed in the code of ordinance and then adjusted them to fit today's needs. This has been an ongoing process for some time to ensure all fees were accounted for and the rates were logical. He said he felt they hadn't been addressed in 20 years.

The council wanted to make sure the new fees would cover the city's costs.

Councilman Fox questioned the cost of Notary Fee and felt it should be comparable to the wage of the person performing the service. Councilperson Eveleth explained that the maximum amount you can charge for Notary service is \$10 and that is controlled by the State.

Building Inspector Charles Rau gave a brief overview of the building and zoning fees. He explained that he does not do the mechanical and electrical inspections that those services are contracted out and as such he does not control the price. There was a lengthy discussion on the building fees.

Council also discussed the charge for use of the parks and wasn't certain there should be a higher charge for nonresidents. They felt that they wanted to encourage all people to enjoy the parks.

Public Safety Director Kevin Lenkart presented the charges for the Public Safety Department. He explained the fees would be standardized charging \$10 for copies of reports with an additional \$.25 for each page. He explained the fee for ambulance bills are adjusted annually.

Utilities Director Gary Burk was on hand to answer questions on the water and sewer charges. He explained that the charges on the fee schedule had been prepared a while ago.

City Manager Crawford explained that he felt the fees should be part of the yearly budget and the budget should state these are the fees that should be charged once the fee schedule has been approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilperson Eveleth to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilperson Fox and concurred in unanimous vote.

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Benjamin R. Frederick, Mayor

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Roxane K. Cramer, Clerk's Assistant